

**REMARKS**

Applicant has amended the above-identified application responsive to the Office Action dated May 4, 2005 in the above-referenced application.

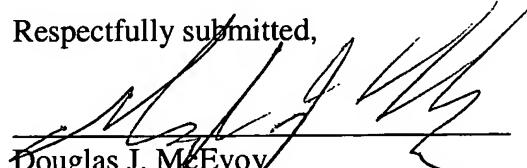
Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-9 and canceled claim 2. Independent claim 1 now includes the recitations of allowable dependent claim 2, now canceled, directed to the splitter element further including an extending blade separating the opposing and mating profiles associated with the reclosable portions, upon traversing motion of the slider in a first direction relative to the reclosable portions. The Examiner indicated the allowability of claims 2-4 in the present Office Action. Claim 3 has further been amended to switch its dependency to claim 1, and claims 3-8 are also now allowable as depending from an allowed base claim.

Applicant has further amended independent claim 9, and which is submitted to now overcome the cited Tanaka reference, USPN 5,996,187. Specifically, amended claim 9 recites that the main body exhibits a central portion and first and second hingedly attached and foldable wings, in particular the central portion exhibiting a downwardly extending blade extending between opposing locations of the reclosable portions and separating the opposing and mating profiles associated with the reclosable portions upon traversing motion of the slider in a first direction relative to the reclosable portions.

In contrast, the Tanaka device teaches a shortened stopper 6 projecting from a midportion of the base portion 4. The stopper portion 6 is described as having such a length that, upon the slider body 2 being folded in half, the free end of the stopper 6 is positioned closer to the base portion 4 than the inner pair of opposing grooves 5 (i.e. the inner pair of reclosable portions shown in Tanaka).

The stopper 6 in Tanaka accordingly does not function to separate the reclosable portions upon the slider being traversed in a given direction (as is now more clearly recited in amended claim 9 and as also illustrated in the cutaway views of Figs. 6 and 7 of the present design). As clearly stated in column 2, lines 31 et seq. of Tanaka, the stopper 6 functions to contact an inner side of the bag proximate its top edge, upon fully traversing to an end of the reclosable portions and corresponding to the reclosable portions being established in a fully closed position. This is in order to prevent the slider from becoming disengaged from the bag and in order to enable the user to recognize that the opening is completely closed.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1 and 3-9 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Attorney for Applicant may be contacted at (248) 647-6000 with any questions the Examiner may have.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Douglas J. McEvoy  
Registration No. 34,385  
Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle,  
Anderson & Citkowski, P.C.  
2701 Troy Center Drive, Suite 330  
P.O. Box 7021  
Troy, MI 48007-7021  
(248) 647-6000

Attorney for Applicant

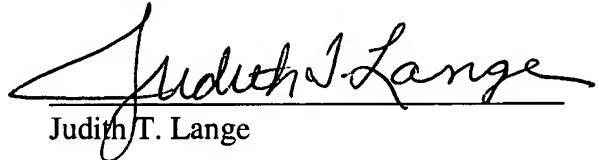
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Response to Office Action of May 4, 2005

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Judith T. Lange  
Judith T. Lange